

**But God Knoweth The Way That I Take** (Job 23:1-12)

**Proposition:** Here in our text, God gives us an illustration through the

life of Job of how every child of God can be delivered from the loneliest times of life.

- I. Realize the Struggle in Job (Vs. 1-7)
  - A. A Struggle of Recourse (Vs. 3-4)
  - B. A Struggle of Reasoning (Vs. 5-7)
- II. Remember the Seeking by Job (Vs. 8-9)
  - A. The Seeming Absence of God
  - B. The Sure Anxiety of Man
- III. Rely on the Sovereign above Job (Vs. 10)
  - A. A Perceptive Sovereign (Vs. 10a)
  - B. A Proving Sovereign (Vs. 10b)
  - C. A Perfecting Sovereign (Vs. 10c)
- IV. Reclaim the Security within Job (Vs. 11-12)
  - A. The Security of a Righteous Way (Vs. 11)
  - B. The Security of a Revealed Word (Vs. 12)

But God knoweth the Way that I Take (Job 23:1-12)

God interrupts our solitude. If there was ever a man that felt lonely, isolated and in solitude it was Job. A man whose world in an instant came crashing down on him. He lost his children, his wealth and eventually his health. When the dust settled his wife told him to basically drop dead and his friends were doing their best to convince him that he brought this on himself and if that were not enough, in the chapter before us God is nowhere to be found. You

see suffering can often times drive a person into solitude and we start singing the old spiritual "No body knows the trouble I've seen. No body knows... We've all been there. But the

I. Realize the Struggle inside Job (1:1-7)

In the first 9 verses there is the scene of an inner struggle inside of Job. A struggle to come to grips with what all is transpiring.

A. A Struggle of Recourse (1:3-4) - In the previous chapter, Eliphaz had tried to convince Job that his sin was the cause of the calamity. Ch 22: 21-25. But in chapter one

even God attests to the integrity. So in vs 2 this stroke or calamity is louder than his complaint. I'm getting more than I deserve. V3 If I could find him, I'd have a set down w/ him. V4 I'd get a good case where this shouldn't be happening to



me. I here get to be a court for me to explain myself

### B. A Struggle of Reasoning (Vs 5-7) - Vs 5

There is a reasoning that is going on inside of Job. Trying to figure all this out. If I could get a hearing I know what God would say: Vs 6 He wouldn't be against me in, but he would help me. Vs 7 If I could stand where the righteous do and plead my case, I'd be acquitted from judgment forever. <sup>(2)</sup> Clark said Job didn't know what God was up to and tried to reason why this shouldn't be happening to him. <sup>(3)</sup> Didn't we do the

### II. Remember the Seeking by Job (Vs 8-9) - The

heart of Job's loneliness and solitude is not the betrayal of his wife, nor the allegations of his friends it was the disappearance of God. His seeking two <sup>understand</sup>

### A. The Seeming Absence of God - Vs 8-9.

Job is looking everywhere for God. When he tries to just continue on, he can not find God. When he backs up, maybe thinking he missed God somewhere along the way God is not there. We look around us, in the things we do and have and he seems nowhere to be found. Haven't we all been in that place: alone in a crisis looking for a God that seems to be absent, Is 45:15. <sup>(4)</sup> But did you notice that Job never sought God by looking up. He's look <sup>(5)</sup>

### B. The Sure Anxiety of Man - Vs 3

It is as Job is in a panic! "Oh that I knew where I might find him!" And then in Vs 8+9 he is running around all over try to find God

1) ...the question is, how do I get out of it? What is the antidote for loneliness in the midst of suffering? Here in our text, God gives us an illustration through the life of Job of how every child of God can be delivered from the loneliest times of life.

2) Clark - Nothing less than the fullest conviction of his own innocence could have led Job to express himself thus to the Judge of quick and dead!

3) ...do the same things. God this shouldn't be happening to me. God are you aware of what's going on? An inner struggle with the why and if you'll read the book of Job, he never understands why. The trial just passes.

4) Isaiah 45:15 Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.

5) ...He's looking in all the wrong places. God does reveal himself to us when we look in the right place. Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son... the revelation of God: The Lord Jesus Christ!

1) ...the question is, how do I get out of it? What is the antidote for loneliness in the midst of suffering? Here in our text, God gives

**1) but it seemed as though God had disappeared. Now**

**remember what we are doing here. I am showing you in the life**

**of Job that you aren't the only one to say, "I don't deserve this**

**and why is this happening?" You are not the only one to look**

**and search for God and not find Him."**

2) ...do the same thing. God this shouldn't be happening to me.

God are you aware of what's going on? An inner struggle with

the why and if you'll read the book of Job, he never understands

why. The trial just passes.

2) ...it is being tested! He is not trying to consume you but to

**conform you to the image of His dear son. 1 Peter 1:7 That the**

**trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that**

**perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto**

**praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**

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to plead his case, and put an end to the trial. But God was nowhere to be found. This is the source of great anxiety. That the God whom we love and serve has abandoned us in our need. Several years ago, I went

through just such a trial, I searched and pleaded, but it

**III. Rely on the Sovereign Above Job (vs 10)**  
Job finally looks in the right place above and in doing so finds the confidence to weather the trial

**A. A Perceptive Sovereign (vs 10a)** - Eliphaz in Chap. 22 accused Job of saying that God couldn't see Job. But Job had always maintained that God could see Job. Job may not be able to see God but Job knew God could see him. Ah

what confidence we can have in trial and isolation in knowing that God knows your path!

**B. A Proving Sovereign (vs 10b)** - This was a test it was only a test. I believe it was last year when we did a series on the battles of the Bible. One of the messages was the "Battle for our faith" I said that "Faith possesses will be faith tested" Abraham had faith but it was tested on Mt. Moriah. Job was a man of faith and it is here

**C. A Perfecting Sovereign (vs 10c)** - In vs 1-7

Job wanted to win an argument with God. But God wants Job to be more like God, and it is in trial where the gold of our lives is purified where impurities are brought to the surface, and

God like a refiner of God presides over purifying of our  
IV. Reclaim the Security within Job (Vs 11-12)

Job held fast to some things like an anchor holds a ship in a storm. These are hold fasts for us as well

A. The Security of a Righteous Way (Vs. 11)

I did not depart from a righteous way. I did not forsaken God's path but I have followed in his steps. Job has the confidence of maintained integrity. Ps 5:21 That is always the question in time of trial and it is the question of the entire book of Job. Is this trial punishment or purifying. Is it retribution or refinement. The old preacher Bob Jones Sr. Do Right Do Right. Maintain integrity

B. The Security of a Revealed Word (Vs. 12)

Elephaz said in Job 22:22 you need to review God's word and put it in your heart. Job had already done that! He said I haven't departed from his word. Not only that, Job claimed that to have esteemed or treasured the words of God more than his daily requirement of food. Jeremiah 15:16 Ps 119:103. Matthew Henry said The word of God is to our souls what our necessary food is to our bodies. It sustains the

V. Closing In the end I like what one author said. Our trials and difficulties and loneliness will have

transfigured by divine alchemy the base elements of self confidence + self-assertiveness into the gold of God's <sup>grace</sup> goodness



- 1) ...of our lives. Warren Wiersbe said "When God puts His own people into the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. He knows how long and how much. We may question why He does it to begin with, or why He doesn't turn down the heat or even turn it off; but our questions are only evidences of unbelief.... Gold does not fear the fire. The furnace can only make the gold purer and brighter. 1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.
- 2) Psalms 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee. Psalms 26:1 Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. Proverbs 20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity.
- 3) ....integrity. Stay close to God. Keep a clean account!
- 4) Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart...  
Psalms 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 5) ...it sustains the spiritual life and strengthens us for the actions of life; it is that which we cannot subsist without, and which nothing else can make up the want of: and we ought therefore so to esteem it, to take pains for it, hunger after it, feed upon it with delight, and nourish our souls with it; and this will be our rejoicing in the day of evil, as it was Job's here.